



State of Wisconsin
Barbara Lawton, Lt. Governor

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent



****NEWS RELEASE****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Members of Wisconsin Task Force on Arts and Creativity in Education Named

First meeting will be held April 23 in Madison

MADISON—The Wisconsin Task Force on Arts and Creativity in Education will hold its first meeting at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison.

Appointed by Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton and State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster, task force members represent leaders in education, government, business, and citizen groups. The task force will address the essential role of arts and creativity in education and in cultivating an innovative, entrepreneurial workforce. It will focus on planning and making recommendations for various public agencies, organizations, and businesses to use in strengthening arts and creativity education in the state.

"Creativity and innovation will be the cornerstone of Wisconsin's competitive workforce in the years ahead," Lawton said. "This impressive group gathers decades of collective experience, a deep well of knowledge, and a strong commitment to Wisconsin. I am confident they will guide us to make the smart, strategic investments we need to ensure Wisconsin the bright innovators and entrepreneurs we need to drive our state forward."

"Advances in science, business, technology, and service industries come from those who think in new ways. Students who are involved in the arts have an opportunity to develop skills that are the foundation of creativity and innovation," Burmaster said. "Strengthening arts education in our schools and communities will ensure Wisconsin's leadership in the emerging creative economy."

To help inform its work, the task force will invite the public and representatives of various state and local arts organizations to testify at public forums on strategies to expand arts and creativity education in Wisconsin. The task force will look for ways to expand the reach of arts and creativity education and encourage partnerships among school and community arts education programs. It will make recommendations to align arts and creativity education with high school graduation and postsecondary education as well as with workforce needs and entrepreneurial development, and to diversify arts education programs to include 21st century art forms.

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NOTE: A list of the members of the Wisconsin Task Force on Arts and Creativity in Education follows. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_68.pdf.



Office of the
Lieutenant Governor
Barbara Lawton



Elizabeth Burmaster
State Superintendent

Wisconsin Task Force on Arts and Creativity in Education

Co-chairs

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

Barbara Lawton, Lt. Governor

Task Force Members

*Gary Albrecht, Administrator
CESA 2, Milton*

*Barry Applewhite, Assistant Principal
Milwaukee High School of the Arts*

*John Ashley, Executive Director
Wisconsin Association of School Boards, Madison*

*Jill Beck, President
Lawrence University, Appleton*

*Gary Besaw, Vice President of Student Affairs
College of Menominee Nation, Keshena*

*Peter Blewett, President
Milwaukee Board of School Directors*

*Amy Christensen-Waddell, President and CEO
Albion Armourers, New Glarus*

*Peter Crawford, Board of Directors President
Arts Wisconsin, Waukesha*

*Marian Furlong, President and CEO
Hudson Hospital*

*Roy Elkins, Founder and CEO
Broadjam, Madison*

*Ted Hamm, Principal
Etude School, Sheboygan*

*Christine Harris, President
Cultural Alliance of Greater Milwaukee*

*Neil Hoffman, President
Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design*

*Susan Hunt, Chair, UW-Stout
Department of Art and Design, Menomonie*

*Penny Larson, President
Wisconsin Congress of Parents
and Teachers, Madison*

*Susan Lipp, President
Full Compass Systems, Middleton*

*LaMoine MacLaughlin, Director
Northern Lakes Center for the Arts, Amery*

*Gerry McKenna, Retired Dean
UW-Stevens Point College of Fine
Arts and Communication
Board President, Central Wisconsin
Symphony Orchestra*

*William Mortimore, Chairman
Information Technology Association
of Wisconsin, Madison*

*Brian Raffel, CEO
Raven Software, Middleton*

*Jim Rivett, President/Creative Director
Arketype Inc., Green Bay*

*Fred Schlichting, District Administrator
Solon Springs School District*

*Barbara Schrank, Chair
Arts Education Task Force
Madison Metropolitan School District*

*Kathi Seifert, President
Pinnacle Perspectives, Appleton*

*Ben Sidran of Madison
Professional Artist*

*Toni Sikes, President
The Guild.com, Madison*

*Ahna Skop, UW-Madison
Assistant Professor of Genetics and Scientific Artist*

*Jessica Stoller, Policy Initiatives Adviser
Wisconsin Department of Commerce*

*Heather Terrill-Stotts, Creative Learning Coordinator
River Valley School District, Spring Green*